

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 6, lines 16-18, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 9 is a side elevational view of a guide wire partially in section showing ~~pitted~~ pits or divots in the core surface and a conforming surface texture in the coating thereon.

On page 8, lines 27-31 through page 9, lines 1-4, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

The surface coating 20 may only partially cover the guide wire core 22 or may envelope the entire core altogether. Toward the distal end 24 of the guide wire 10 is a flexible member 26. Preferably the flexible member 26 is one or more helical coils welded, bonded, soldered, or otherwise attached to the distal core section 14. In the embodiment shown, the flexible member 26 is attached at its proximal end by a weld or solder mass 28 and at its distal end by a solder ball 30 or similar rounded tip. Furthermore, the guide wire 10 features a flattened distal tip 32 that extends into the solder ball 30. FIGS. 2 and 3 are cross-sectional views of the guide wire 10 taken along lines 2-2 and 3-3 of FIG. 1, respectively.

On page 10, lines 1-7, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

Overlying the wire core 64 is a coating 60 that in this embodiment preferably extends from the proximal end 56 to a weld mass 62. Importantly, the coating 60 follows or conforms to the surface texture delineated by the bumps 58 as well as the overall

profile delineated by the straight, curved, or tapered profiles of the wire core 64. In other words, as the outside diameter of the wire core 68 changes, so does the outside diameter of the coating 60 such that the coating thickness is relatively constant along the length of the wire core [[68]] 64.

On page 12, lines 22-32, please replace the paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

FIG. 17 shows one preferred process for creating a coating with surface texturing; the surface texturing here are ridges 108. In FIG. 17, guide wire core 98 [[96]] is fed through a die 110 having a tapered orifice 112. The wire core 98 again has straight and tapered profiles. A solid polymer cartridge 114 surrounds the wire core 98 as it passes through a lumen 116 therein. Proximate to the die 110 is a heat source 118 used to melt the polymer nearest the die 110. A plunger 120 also applies pressure on the cartridge 114 forcing melted polymer into the orifice 112 as the wire core 98 passes therethrough. Accordingly, the wire core 98 is fed in the direction of the arrow shown in FIG. 17 while the polymer cartridge 114 is simultaneously melted by the heat source 118 and force fed into the orifice 112 under plunger pressure 120.

On page 16, lines 1-20, please replace the first three paragraphs with the following three amended paragraphs:

The fluoropolymer coating may be co-extruded onto the wire core through the process described in connection with FIG. 17. Such a fluoropolymer may be PTFE or any type of fluoropolymer based material, blended fluoropolymer with other non-fluoropolymers, primed, layered, impinged, baked, chemically adhered on one or more layers with any/either PTFE, FEP, ~~Teflon~~ TEFLON 1 coats, PTFE/PFA blends, PFA,

ETFE, DuPont ~~Teflon~~ TEFLON coatings, Xylan coatings, DuPont ~~Teflon~~ TEFLON S coating, DuPont ~~Teflon~~ TEFLON P coating, Akzo Nobel & Acheson colloids, or other like fluoropolymers. Although not shown, the textures imparted or formed into the surface of the coating can include various shapes such as round, oblong, square, rectangle, triangular, polygonal, teardrop, and other geometric shapes.

Although not shown, the present invention contemplates more than one coating ~~coatings~~ being applied to the wire core. Therefore, the embodiments shown in the drawing figures may have multiple coatings yet still reflect the surface textures depicted.

The wire core 22 may have an optional lubricious coating such as a fluoropolymer, e.g., ~~Teflon~~ TEFLON available from DuPont, that extends the length of the wire core or a portion thereof. The distal core sections 14, 34, may optionally be covered with a lubricious coating such as that used by Advanced Cardiovascular Systems, Inc. under the commercial name MICROGLIDE. Hydrophilic coatings may also be employed to cover the wire core partially or entirely.